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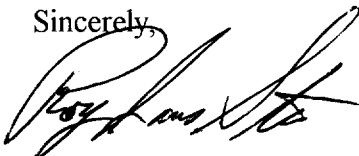
Dr. Jane E. Henney, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

American medicine's life-saving successes in antibiotic therapies are truly miracles of dedicated, creative technological progress. The diseases that routinely killed humans less than a half-century ago are now merely brief inconveniences. But our victories over killer bacteria are seriously threatened by the ongoing practice of regularly including antibiotics in animal feeds. The use of these compounds to improve (by a relatively small factor) the growth rate of livestock for human consumption makes their efficacy as the last line of defense against deadly bacterial infection less and less certain. Livestock producers, by constantly feeding animals the same chemical compounds used to destroy bacteria threatening human life, are quickly creating strains of bacteria impervious to those compounds, and capable of reducing decades of medical research and successful anti-bacterial therapies to a distant memory.

The danger of the new, resistant strains of bacteria we are creating is recognized world-wide. This is *not* just a trade issue. American health is being held hostage by drug companies and livestock producers who profit greatly from the sale of the antibiotics, and slightly increased animal growth rates. It is now time for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to recognize the serious danger we are creating, and take the courageous step of banning the use of antibiotics in animal feeds. Do the right thing, in spite of powerful drug and livestock producers' lobbying efforts, and create the necessary regulations that will remove antibiotics from livestock diets, thereby assuring our continued success in the war against a far more formidable, invisible enemy: bacterial disease.

Sincerely,



Roy James Stewart
585 Water Turkey Retreat
Charleston, SC 29412

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